



**FEBRUARY  
2004  
JOURNAL**

**Meeting Schedule**

**Monday, February 23 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Town Meeting**

**Bill Barron from MNCPPC to speak on Overlay Zones**

**March 1, 7:00 p.m. Work Session**

**March 29, 7:30 p.m. Town Meeting**

**Town of Kensington American Red Cross Blood Drive**

**At Town Hall on Saturday March 20<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 3pm**

**Watch for details!**

**For more information or to reserve a time please contact**

**Andrea Gill at 301-949-4030**

Giving blood is an opportunity to help ensure safe and adequate blood supply for you, your family, and your community. A mini physical of each donor is performed which includes blood pressure, iron levels, pulse and temperature check, and a brief health history. The State of Maryland has issued an emergency appeal for blood. This is a wonderful opportunity to do something for your community as well as for yourself. If you would also like to volunteer to help us get the word out, please let us know.

Contact us at 3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington, MD 20895

Phone: 301-949-2424; Fax: 301-949-4925;

E-mail: [mayor.council@tok.org](mailto:mayor.council@tok.org); Web Site: [www.tok.org](http://www.tok.org)

## **Maryland Tax Return 2003 Form 502/503**

**Please remember to write the Town of Kensington in the box marked city, town or taxing area. This will insure that a portion of your tax dollars will return to the Town.**

## **CODE ENFORCEMENT NOTICE**

### **Town of Kensington Code of Ordinances Chapter 3, Section 3-104.5**

Accumulation of snow and ice on public sidewalks, walkways, and driveway aprons connecting sidewalks.

Owners, tenants, and managers of single family, multifamily, commercial and industrial properties shall be jointly and severally responsible for removing snow and ice to the extent necessary to provide safe pedestrian pathways along public sidewalks. Pathways shall be a sufficient width for safe pedestrian use.

If an owner, tenant, or manager is unable to remove ice or hard packed snow from sidewalks, walkways or pathways, salt, sand or other abrasive applications must be applied within twenty-four hours from the time the precipitation stops.

Failure to abide by this ordinance will result in a municipal infraction.

### **For Your Information**

#### **Montgomery Municipal Cable**

Be sure to watch Cable Channel 16 for events and information relating to municipal government.

#### **Poetry Evening**

There will be a poetry evening with poems by Russian and American poets in original and in translation. The event will take place on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Kensington Row Bookshop at 3786 Howard Avenue. The event is free and open to the public. For more information call Natasha Nikitina (301) 933-0607 or the Kensington Row Bookshop at (301) 949-9416.

#### **Public Works Information**

**Recycling:** Please breakdown cardboard boxes.

**Sidewalks:** Report any sidewalk sections that need to be repaired. The work list for the Spring is being prepared.

**Snow Removal:** Parking on one side of a street before the snowstorm will allow our trucks to do a better job of clearing your street. We thank those residents who get together and organize their parking prior to a storm.

**Surplus Property:** The Town has two small snow blowers for sale. These may require some service.

**Please be patient while you are waiting behind trash vehicles.**

### **Refrigerator Needed**

If you have a refrigerator, in good working condition, that you would like to donate to Town Hall please let us know.

### **Mayor's Report**

As we all are aware the old Sunoco gas station site is an eyesore to the Town of Kensington. The new owners have been diligently working to get the required permits from Montgomery County Permitting Services. This has been a slow process. Now the owners are close to receiving the needed permits to start grading. In the interim they will continue to remove the abandoned vehicles. With some minor revisions the new owners will be using the Sunoco plans approved by the Town's Commercial Development Review Committee and the Town Council.

Safeway is moving forward with their plans. A hearing will be scheduled before the Planning Board within the next few weeks; no date has been set as of the time of this report. As the Mayor reported in the past this business is important to the economical viability of our commercial area and convenience to its citizens. We know the store will be larger but by its design it will serve our community with a unique and greater variety of foods.

The Safeway file in Town Hall contains emails and letters of support and opposition to the proposal. The majority of the written material in a petition has originated from those outside the Town of Kensington. The Wheaton-Kensington Chamber of Commerce, the Kensington Business District Association, and the Coalition of Kensington Communities are some of the organizations strongly supporting the Safeway expansion proposal.

You may find it interesting to know that Judy Hanks Henn and Caya Cagri who are responsible for the Kensington First website were both on the CDRC at different times. It is unfortunate that neither of them provided suggestions or plans to Safeway early on. They provided input after the final plans were submitted by Safeway to the Town on December 15, 2003.

Please review the Safeway plans and its file at the Town Hall to become familiar with the Safeway expansion. Attend the Park and Planning hearing. Forming an opinion by reading the erroneous information from Kensington First is to shape an uneducated opinion.

Lastly, the Mayor has been serving on Maryland Municipal League's Legislative Committee this year. The committee meets every ten days during the legislative session, making decisions about what legislation effecting municipal government needs to be supported or opposed. The committee is closely watching Governor Ehrlich's budget process to determine how the cuts will impact municipalities in Maryland so we can quickly respond to address the needs of our cities and towns.

Thank you to the Audit Committee, Jeff Capron, Jay Kaiser, and Leslie Olson for their diligence in reviewing the audit for the Town.

### **Building Permits Issued**

Raise rear roof at 10002 Frederick Avenue  
Driveway apron at 10213 Montgomery Avenue  
Sign at 10408 Montgomery Avenue  
Addition at 10400 Montgomery Avenue

**The Town Meeting scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to inclement weather.**

### **Work Session of Mayor & Council**

February 2, 2004

The Work Session commenced at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Raufaste, Council Members Carr, Cowan, Pfautz, and Timlin, Director of Operations Furman, and Clerk-Treasurer Engels present and the following issues were addressed:

A closed session was held on January 21, 2004 to discuss personnel issues with Mayor Raufaste, Council Members Carr, Cowan, Pfautz, and Timlin present. No actions were taken.

A report from the Audit Committee was read. Joseph McCathran from Linton, Shafer & Co. was present and discussed the Town's audit for fiscal year 2003 and the implementation of the new reporting requirements of GASB 34. The Audit Committee will meet with Linton, Shafer & Co prior to the commencement of the audit for FY04 so the audit can incorporate special emphasis per Audit Committee request.

County Council Member Tom Perez was present to discuss any concerns of the Town. A list of traffic problem areas will be sent to him for his follow up.

The Mayor and Council discussed future priorities for the Town including demographic and market studies for commercial revitalization, additional commercial parking, the use of T-21 funds, and continuing renovation of Town Hall. Council Member Carr and Pfautz will draft a list of major priorities for Council review.

The project list was reviewed. Monitoring enhanced signage and further research on traffic calming measures at Wake Drive was added to the project list. Council Member

Carr presented a draft lighting ordinance for the Council to review and provide comments. The Mayor and Council reviewed the new web site design.

The Director of Operations reviewed his report and will request proposals for a new heating system.

The Minutes from January 5, 2004 were reviewed and corrected.

The monthly correspondence was reviewed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

### **Council Actions**

Council Member Pfautz moved to approve the minutes as circulated for November 24 and December 15, 2003. Council Member Timlin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Pfautz moved to approve the minutes for January 5, 2004 with paragraph two being amended as follows:

Per Council agreement at the November 3, 2003 meeting, Joe Cutro, Traffic Engineer, was hired to provide professional guidance on traffic calming options for Wake Drive. He presented his findings and options at the Work Session. As a first measure, the Mayor and Council agreed to improve signage on southbound Frederick Avenue at Wake Drive, Frederick Avenue at Kent Street, Kensington Parkway at Kent Street, and speed hump signage on Wake Drive as Mr. Cutro recommended. **The Council also discussed possible further measures, if the improved signage does not improve the situation significantly, such as narrowing Wake Drive and adding a sidewalk on one or both sides. The Council asked Mr. Cutro to recommend methods to temporarily narrow the street such as temporary curbs.** Any additional measures will be reviewed in conjunction with the budget process. Other traffic concerns discussed were speeding on Plyers Mill Road and pedestrian safety crossing Lexington Street which will be discussed further at a Work Session along with other traffic hot spots. **(Council Member Carr will ask Montgomery County to provide copies of traffic counts from 1998).**

Council Member Timlin seconded and it passed unanimously.

Council Member Pfautz moved to decrease bridge reconstruction by \$8,000 and increase vehicle maintenance/repair by \$8,000 in fiscal year 2003-2004 budget. Council Member Carr seconded and it passed unanimously.

Council Member Pfautz moved to approve resolution 2004-01 to authorize the Town to participate in the County's aggregate group's competitive procurement of electricity. Council Member Timlin seconded and it passed unanimously. The Council concurred to have a cap for consultant fees when the agreement for consultant services for the purchase of electricity is signed.